improvement in the State of Bihar to increase milk production in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made under the programme in the State so far; and

(c) what other measures Government propose to take to increase milk production in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) No Sir.

(c) Animal Husbandry is a State Subject. The State Government are responsible for the development of this Sector for increasing the production of the livestock products including milk. Government of India has however been assisting the States including the State of Bihar under various Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development Schemes for supplementing their efforts. A list of these schemes is enclosed.

List of Centrally Sponsored Schemes

A. *Animal Husbandary*

1. Extension of Frozen Semen Technology & Progeny Testing Programme.
2. Assistance to States for Feed & Fodder Development.
3. National Project on Rinderpest Eradication.
4. Assistance to States for Control of Animal Diseases.
5. Professional Efficiency Development.
6. Assistance to States for improvement of Abattoirs/Establishment of carcass utilisation centres and Primary Flaying Units.
7. Integrated Sample Survey for Estimation of Major Livestock Production in the State/UTs and Strengthening of animal husbandary statistics cell at Headquarters.
8. National Bull Production Programme.
9. National Ram/Buck Production Programme and Programme for Rabbit Development.
10. Development of Pack Animals.
11. Assistance to States for Intcgrated Piggery Development.

B. *Dairy Development*

1. Swiss Aided Dairy Development Project in North Kerala.

List of Central Sector Schemes

A. *Animal Husbandary*

1. Animal Husbandry Extension Programme.

B. *Dairy Development*

1. Integrated Dairy Development Project in Non-operation Flood, hilly and backward areas.

Foreign Equity in Mining

1232. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently foreign equity upto 50% and even beyond has been permitted even in a sensitive area like mining; and

(b) whether Government would consider limiting foreign equity in mining of Gold, Diamonds and other rare metals, materials and earths to 40%?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. With the announcement of National Mineral Policy, 1993, foreign investment in equity would normally be limited to 50% and this limitation would not apply to captive mines of any mineral processing industry. Enhanced equity holding can also be considered on case to case basis.

(b) No, Sir.

Replacement of Timber by an Environment Friendly Construction Material

1233. DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:
MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI:

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state: